

Year in Review Future Army



DURING 1999 the Army continued to develop and explore the equipment, technologies, doctrines and policies that together will create the force of the future.

The results of earlier Advanced Warfighting Experiments guided the ongoing development of the 4th Infantry Division, the Army's designated Force XXI Experimental Force. During the past year the Fort Hood, Texas-based division acquired and undertook the testing of several new technologies — including communications, reconnaissance and weapons systems. Preparations for the reorganization and digitization of the 4th Inf. Div.'s sister unit, the 1st Cavalry Div. — also at Fort Hood — were on schedule for completion in 2003.

The U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command continued to manage the Army Experiment program, which deals with developing specific issues for a 21st-century Army. The 1999 program, AE6, was intended to create training that heightened the "adaptability" of battlefield commanders. AE6's key objectives included training leaders in a digitized environment and enhancing training-support systems used to train and sustain leaders in digitized units. A computer-assisted "Adaptive Thinking



Experiment" conducted at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., helped evaluate the status of still-evolving "how to think" training.

Other initiatives begun or continued during 1999 included a joint Army-Marine Corps Military Operations in Urban Terrain Advanced Technology Concepts Demonstration. It tests protective gear, hands-free communications and explosive devices that will make urban combat safer. The ATCD culminated in a Joint Contingency Force AWE at Fort Polk, La., where soldiers and marines put new equipment and tactics to the test at the Joint Readiness Training Center's MOUT facility.

Training soldiers to a common standard remains one of the founda-

tions of Army successes both now and in the future, and soldiers around the world will get training where and when it's needed through the Army Distance Learning network of 745 classrooms. The classrooms will have the capabilities to conduct simulation-based training and receive training via satellites from TRADOC classrooms or live action from field exercises. The Army School System will incorporate distance learning sites and existing classrooms into one school system in which active, Army National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers will train to standards that are the same for all.

